REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-16 are active in the case.

The specification has been amended to add the descriptors set forth in M.P.E.P. § 608.01(a). Claims 2-10 have been amended to replace "A" with "The". Claim 3 has been amended to recite "at least one member selected from the group consisting of" before the list of chemical materials. Basis for this limitation may be found on page 11, lines 21-27 of the specification. Claims 5-9 have been amended to remove improper multiple dependency. New Claims 11-15 have been added to preferred embodiments. Basis for new Claim 11 may be found on page 8, lines 4 and 5 of the specification. Basis for new Claim 12 may be found on page 8, lines 23-27 of the specification. Basis for new Claim 13 may be found on page 9, line 10 of the specification. Basis for new Claim 14 may be found on page 3, lines 30-35 of the specification. Basis for new Claim 15 may be found on page 6, lines 34-36 of the specification. Basis for new Claim 16 may be found on page 5, lines 12-14 of the specification. No new matter has been added into the specification, amended claims or new claims.

The Examiner is thanked for the courteous interview conducted on December 2, 2004 in which the issues in the case were clarified. Arguments for patentability were made at the interview, as discussed in detail below, and the Examiner stated that the arguments would be considered in the presently filed response.

The rejection of Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Eck et al. is traversed.

As correctly pointed out by the Examiner on page 4 of the Official Action, Eck et al. fails to teach or suggest that the compressor used in the process of Eck et al. is a radial compressor. The specification discusses on pages 11-14 an inventive example and a comparative example which shows the superior results obtained in the present invention by

the use of a radial compressor. As discussed on page 13, lines 22-24 a radial compressor is used in the example of the present invention, while a three-stage axial compressor is used in the comparative example. In the comparative example the operation had to be terminated after operation for about five weeks owing to considerable oscillations of the shaft and out-of-true running of the axial compressor due to polymeric acrylic acid deposits on the propeller. However, even though such deposits were found in about the same amount on the rotor of the radial compressor, the deposits do not have such a pronounced effect on the process of the present invention and a continuous operation was enabled. Because of the above showing of superior results obtained in carrying out the process of the present invention with a radial compressor, as compared to carrying out the process of the present invention using an axial compressor, it is submitted that the claims distinguish over Eck et al.

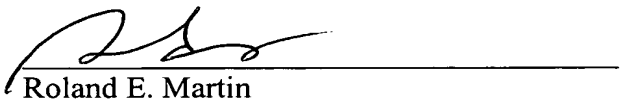
The rejection of Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ember is traversed.

The same arguments made in the response to the rejection over Eck et al. are equally applicable to the rejection over Ember. Because of the superior results shown in the specification for the use of a radial compressor in the process of the present invention, as compared to the use of an axial compressor in the process of the present invention, it is submitted that Claim 7 distinguishes over Ember.

It is submitted that Claims 1-16 are allowable and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon



Roland E. Martin
Registration No. 48,082

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)